Mr. Nelson Lichtenstein
9511 Thornhill Road
Silver Spring, Md. 20901

9/29/89

Dear Mr. Lichtenstein,

I grew up in Wilmington but I've no recollection of the Hagley Museum and Library, from which you appear to have written me. Either I was ignorant, my memory is faulty or it came into being after I left Wilmington in about 1934.

Many years ago the Wisconsin Historical Society asked me for my JFK assassination records and I agreed, but I did not want them under the control of any of them many nuts interested in the subject. This does not exclude a number of professors. So, because he is a responsible man at Stevens point, I picked that place for the deposit where Dr. David Wrone would be handling it. I went out and made a handshake deal with the then chancellor Lee Dreyfus, later governor. And from time to time I sent them things. This includes all of my earlier files, those that did not disappear during World War II. Incredible stuff on the Dies committee - a record of all their expenditures, for example.* Some things on early native fascist activities and some, including pictures, on the JFK assassination. I also spent a week there with daily seminars and addresses each night, these shared with two others. * See p. 2.

I don't know if you are old enough to have known Mike whose name was Glean Michel. He married Max Mathias' sister Trish. We were friends and one night when he brought my wife home from a tax seminar they attended together and he looked at the extent of this archives, he asked me if I'd made all the arrangements for it. I said sure. He said, and he knew my health is impaired, did that include that no aspect of the transfer would be a problem for my wife. I then realized that I had nothing in writing so, with Dreyfus not there I wrote and wrote and wrote and got no response except from Wrone, who is a dear friend. He told me, among other things, that they had decimated the history department. I spent about a year without getting any response other than that they'd get back, which they never did, and then I made the arrangements for Hood. It is a much better school than you may have known and while historians are not as likely to beat a path to it, people do go to work there. Sam Adams did that CBS special on Westmoreland there, for example. And students are using some records of which they have copies and others come here from time to time and do their studies and write their papers. All of which have been rather good to excellent. I have a seminar there on the 12 of next month and another at the end of the semester. A fine historian teaches a course on political assassinations there and he also is a dear friend. He and Wrone and another of whom I know teach it not as a whodunit but as history/political science.

I have no Senate Civil Liberties Committee records other than the hearings and reports I edited. I have some clear recollections, as does a friend who was a staff lawyer and now lives in New York. There is much that did not get into the hearings.

I've not seen the Auerbach study or heard of it and I've not heard of any of the staff ever being interviewed for any studies.

Heber, not Herber, Blankenhorn was a friend and he was very helpful to me when some labor board and union people who turned out to be finks tried to "get" me.

I knew Al Bernstein and his wife before World War II and for a time after it, when I farmed, they were customers. Carl was then a pimply-faced boy. I knew him when he was working on Watergate and helped him and Woodward a bit. I wrote Al after Carl's book was out and he did not respond. I think Carl should consider a sequel on the victims and their fine contributions to our society. I don't know anything about Reuther but I do have some recollections of those hearings and a few stories that may in time interest you, not connected with him or his brother but with the situation and environment. Perhaps the friend I mention above might be helpful. He is Sol Rabkin, 75 Henry St., Brooklyn 11201, phone 718/875-3137. He was able to get to a memorial service for one of us and may know

who os us was still alive then and how to reach them. I've heard that the committee's counsel, John Abt, is still alive and in New York or near it. He also might have information you could use or could refer you to others.

Blankenhorn, as I now recall, edited or was connected with the interchurch (world?) investigation of labor conditions and ~~mr~~ rights after World War I, I now don't recall when. My copies disappeared when I was in the Army.

If you know anyone with a special interest in the committee's steel hearings I have some recollectiond and I was involved later in the Bloody Harlan inesvtigation when the Department of Justice borrowed me from the Senate for their prosecution, styled U.S. v Mary Helen et al, federal district court, London, Ky.

We also exposed the more recently famous, if that is the word, Bull Connor. If you've forgotten it is he who turned the firehoses and dogs on the Birmingham blacks.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Allen Sayler was an investigator who worked on auto. Last I heard of him he was teaching school in Phoenix of Alberquerque. He married Senator Burt Wheeler's daughter Francis. She died young but any living member of the Wheeler family would know about Allen. Charles Kramer also did. John Abt might known where he is. Last I heard it was the upper northwest.

I gave a complete set of the hearings to the United Mine Workers who had them when Henry Berger was working on his doctorate. I was able to open a number of sources for him and they then still had some of the late Gardner Jackson's records. He was a legislative rep. Gardner knew the Reuthers and countless others. He'd been on the Sacco-Vanzetti committee, among many, He worked for Labor's non-Partisan League, not UMW.

Dan Margolies, a lawyer, later at State, may have worked on auto. He lived in D.C. or the suburbs when I last saw him many years ago. I'm pretty sure Dan was on the committee's report on those hearings.

Sam Rhinestine, a lawyer who may still be alive in Chicago, may have had something to do with auto.

I don't recall what else I gave the UMW other than my wife's set of the hearings of the two committees she worked for, Nye's on munitions and Wheeler's on railroads.

* from p. 1: I do not recall what remained of the research I'd done for a book on the Dies committee after The Hollywood Ten's representwtive, Edward Dmytryk, borrowed all he wanted and then didn't return it. He turned out to be a fink so the FBI may have it.